

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STOKES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my strong support for the affirmative action laws of the United States. Within the last two decades, affirmative action has been the primary tool that has allowed minority and women workers to break through the many barriers of employment discrimination.

Despite the steps our Nation has taken to move forward in the area of affirmative action, we are now faced with a new onslaught on civil rights, as evidenced by the recent statements of a Republican Senate leader. In a Washington Post article published yesterday, this Republican Senate leader is quoted as asserting that affirmative action has caused some Americans to "Have to pay" for discrimination practiced "before they were born." A congressional leader who opposes affirmative action should realize that jobs do not belong specifically to one race of people. Black Americans born in this country, also have a contract with America. That contract, by virtue of birth, is rooted in both the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence.

The truth of affirmative action programs is that they do not grant preferential treatment to selected Americans, but provide for a means of equal opportunity employment for all members of our society.

BIPARTISAN COOPERATION HELPS IN KEEPING PROMISES TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

(Ms. PRYCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. PRYCE. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago in an historic and symbolic gesture the esteemed minority leader from Missouri passed the gavel onto the first Republican Speaker in 40 years announcing: "Let the great debate begin."

But a great debate there was not. For it seemed that when the Republicans wanted to change the way Congress works, the Democrats wanted to change the subject. When Republicans wanted to make Government leaner and less intrusive, Democrats seemed intent to use scare tactics and delaying maneuvers.

But Mr. Speaker, this past week or two were different and for the third time in about the same period, the American people won. Casting politics aside and placing the American people first, we together have now passed a balanced budget amendment, unfunded mandate reform, and a line-item veto.

Mr. Speaker, we are now on a roll. There is a renewed spirit of reform and fiscal restraint in this great body of the people. I look forward to even more bipartisan cooperation in our goal to keep our promises to the American people.

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URGING CONGRESS TO PASS THE MODEST INCREASE IN THE MINIMUM WAGE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, our Republican friends support a tax cut for wealthy Americans earning more than \$200,000 a year, but they will not support a raise in the minimum wage for people who want to work and not collect welfare.

If we truly want to move people off public assistance, we must make work more attractive than welfare. We ought not be deceived by those who say the minimum wage is only being paid to teenagers from well-off families. Two-thirds of minimum wage workers are adults over the age of 21, many of whom bring home at least half their family's income.

Let us look at the choices faced by a single mother living at the poverty level. If she goes on welfare, she can get comprehensive health care and a monthly check from the government. If she goes to work at a minimum wage job, she earns only \$8,500 a year, and her family loses her health coverage. She must find a way to care for her children while she is at work. That is not much of a choice. Mark my words, Mr. Speaker, tossing people off welfare will not make these dilemmas magically disappear.

The minimum wage is an important piece of the effort to raise the living standards for all Americans. We started on the right path last year when we voted to expand the earned income tax credit. Let us raise the minimum wage.

COMPENSATION FOR VICTIMS OF CRIME SHOULD BE A BIPARTISAN CONCERN

(Mr. LATOURETTE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Speaker, today this House will begin debate on the Victim's Restitution Act of 1995.

While there may be honest points of disagreement in subsequent consideration of habeas corpus reform, restrictions on the exclusionary rule and the death penalty, there should be no difficulty in recognizing the absolute need within our justice system to compensate victims of crime for the horrors visited upon them by those who cannot abide by society's rules.

In my tenure as a county prosecutor, the most commonly heard complaint by victims of crime was that their voices and their rights were the only absent parties from the criminal justice equation.

The people are represented by the D.A.; the defendant had his high-priced or taxpayer-supported mouthpiece—but the victim, like the cheese in the chil-

dren's rhyme "The Farmer in the Dell"—stands alone.

And although financial recompense cannot replace the loss of personal security one suffers at the hands of the criminal, it is wholly appropriate that the wrongdoers pay in many ways for their inability to conform their behavior to socially acceptable standards.

It has become commonplace for the pendulum to swing back and forth between protection of society and protection of defendants' due process guarantees. Today it is time it swings toward victim's rights—and after today, the victims of crime will no longer stand alone.

CALLING FOR OUTSIDE COUNSEL TO HELP THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

(Mr. WARD asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WARD. Mr. Speaker, on May 26, 1988, a Member of this House said: "I believe that honesty and accountability lie at the heart of self-government and freedom. Without integrity, our free institutions cannot survive." I could not agree more.

Mr. Speaker, on that same day, that same Member said: "Recently the weight of evidence has grown so large that Common Cause has called for an investigation." That Member was NEWT GINGRICH. While Speaker GINGRICH and I may not agree on much in the 104th Congress, I certainly agree with what he said then.

I join Common Cause in calling for an outside ethics adviser to help the Ethics Committee.

As Speaker GINGRICH said in 1988: "I think there is a different standard for being Speaker." I agree.

As the Speaker himself said, we need an outside counsel.

THE EXCLUSIONARY RULE REFORM ACT WILL HELP REDUCE CRIME

(Mr. JONES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. JONES. We have all heard stories about suspected criminals that have had their cases dropped due to illegal searches. I, like all Americans, believe strongly in the fourth amendment which bans unreasonable search and seizures. However, the number of dismissed cases is on the increase.

We have police officers risking their lives each and every day to put these criminals behind bars only to later have the criminals released on a technicality.

Under current law, judges must ignore evidence which was gathered illegally based on present interpretation, even when police thought they were acting legally. This must stop. We cannot allow criminals to control us.